in five thousand patients treated. The tissue culture rabies vaccine, which is comparatively more effective and is, however, expensive.

(e) Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor have already initiated action for development of tissue culture anti-rabies human vaccine.

(f) and (g) The World Health Organisation is of the opinion that the cost effectiveness of immunization of stray, rabies prone animals through baited vaccines, eludes public health acceptance under the present Indian situation.

Sale of Depoprovera Contraceptive

2908. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission has been granted to medical practitioners, drug-sellers and others to dispense without restriction the hormonal contraceptive Depoprovera;

(b) whether women's rights groups have represented to Government against the introduction of the contraceptive; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to seek expert advice on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The representing organisations had been informed that the drug was not to be promoted or sold wihtout a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner and the opinion of experts had been obtained before approval of marketing was granted.

Disincentives to Check Population Growth

2909. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE by pleased to state:

(a) what Government consider that population growth rate is alarming;

(b) whether Government consider imposing negative incentives to check the population growth; and

(c) if so, what are the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The NDC's Committee on Population has made certain recommendations on incentives and disincentives. A copy of summary of recommendations is given in Statement I(*see below*). The draft Population Policy document has also made certain suggestions. These are given in Statement II.

Statement-I

Incentives and Disincentives as Recommended by NDC Committee on Population

The incentives/disincentives currently applicable to employees of Central/State/UT Governments, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings etc. for adopting small family norm may be appropriately modified as follows:—

1. Leave Travel Concessions, free or concessional rail/bus or air journeys wherever applicable, CGHS facilities/ reimbursement of medical expenses, Maternity Leave benefit (excluding those directly affecting the health of the mother and the foetus/new born), etc. are made available up to two children only.

2. Special increments for undergoing sterilisation, incentive of lower rate of interest for house building advances, interest bearing advances viz. vehicle loans should be available to the employees with two or less children only.

3. Priority in allotment of Government accommodation is given to employees who have adopted 2-child norm.